MANIPUR GAZETTE

EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 96 **Imphal, Friday, August 22, 2025** **(Sravana 31, 1947)**

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT: LAW & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION
Imphal, August 20, 2025

No. 2/13/2024-Leg/L: The following Act of the Legislature of Manipur which received assent of the President of India on July 18, 2025 is hereby published in the Official Gazette:

THE MANIPUR SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES (REGULATION OF ISSUANCE AND VERIFICATION OF CASTE CERTIFICATES) ACT, 2024

(MANIPUR ACT NO. 1 OF 2025)

An
Act

to provide for the regulation of the issuance and verification of the caste certificates to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the Legislature of Manipur in the Seventy-fifth Year of Republic of India, as follow:-

Short title, extent and commence-ment.

1. *(1)* This Act may be called the Manipur Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of Caste Certificates) Act, 2024.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Manipur.

(3) It shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
(a) "Appellate Authority" means the Authority as mentioned in section 5;

(b) “Backward Classes” means any Socially and Educationally Backward Classes of citizens as declared by the Government and also, includes other Backward Classes declared by the Government of India in relation to the State of Manipur;

(c) “Caste Certificate” means the certificate issued by the Competent Authority to an applicant indicating therein the Scheduled Castes, or Other Backward Classes, as the case may be, to which such applicant belongs;

(d) “Competent Authority” means an officer or authority authorised by the Government, by notification, to issue Caste Certificate for such area or for such purposes as may be specified in the said notification and shall include all the Competent Authorities already designated by the Government before the commencement of this Act, having jurisdiction over the area or place to which the applicant originally belongs, unless specified otherwise;

(e) “Government” means the Government of Manipur;

(f) “Local Authority" means in relation to local areas, the concerned Gram Panchayat, Zilla Parishad, Autonomous District Council, Municipality, Municipal Corporation, Nagar Panchayats, or such other body legally entitled to function as local authority by the Government having jurisdiction over the local area;

(g) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(h) “public sector undertaking” means a Government Company as defined in section 617 of the Companies Act, 1956, or any Corporation established by or under any Central or State Act;

(i) “reserved category" means category of persons either belonging to Scheduled Caste, or Other Backward Class;

(j) “Scheduled Caste” shall have the meanings assigned to them in clause (24) of article 366 of the Constitution of India; and

(k) “Scrutiny Committee” means the Committee or Committees constituted under sub-section (1) of section 6 for verification of the Caste Certificate and to perform other functions as entrusted to the Scrutiny Committee under this Act.

Application for a Caste Certificate.

3. Any person belonging to any of the reserved category, required to produce a Caste Certificate in order to claim the benefit of any reservation provided to such reserved category either in any public employment or for admission into any educational institution or any other benefit under any special provisions made under clause (4) of article 15 of the Constitution of India or for the

purpose of contesting for elective post in any Local Authority or in the co-operative societies or any other purposes specified by the Government, shall apply in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed, to the Competent Authority for the issuance of a Caste Certificate.

Issue of Caste Certificate by Competent Authority.

4. *(1)* The Competent Authority may, on an application made to it under section 3, after satisfying itself about the genuineness of the claim and following the procedures prescribed, issue a Caste Certificate within such time limit and in such form as may be prescribed or reject the application for reasons to be recorded in writing.

(2) A Caste Certificate issued by any person, officer or authority other than the Competent Authority shall be invalid.

Appeal.

5. *(1)* The Government shall, by notification, in the Official Gazette, declare any officer higher in rank than the Competent Authority concerned as the Appellate Authority.

(2) Any person aggrieved by an order of rejection of application passed by the Competent Authority under sub-section (1) of section 4 may, within 30 days from the receipt of order, appeal to the Appellate Authority.

(3) The Appellate Authority may, within a period of three months, after giving the appellant an opportunity of being heard and after satisfying itself about the genuineness or otherwise of the claim of the appellant, either confirm the rejection order or set aside the order of the Competent Authority and direct the Competent Authority to issue the Caste Certificate.

Scrutiny Committee.

6. *(1)* The Government shall constitute by notification in the Official Gazette, one or more Scrutiny Committee(s), for verification of Caste Certificates issued by the Competent Authorities under sub-section (1) of section 4 specifying in the said notification the functions and the area of jurisdiction of each of such Scrutiny Committees.

(2) The appointing authority of the Government, Central Government, Local Authority, Public Sector Undertakings, educational institutions, co-operative societies or any other Government aided institutions may make application, in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed, to the Scrutiny Committee concerned for the verification of the Caste Certificate, if any doubt arises about genuineness of the Caste Certificate produced by any person to get any benefit on the basis of such Certificate;

Provided that the Scrutiny Committee shall also have the power to verify suo-motu, the genuineness of a Caste Certificate issued or claimed to be issued by the Competent Authority;

Provided further that the person whose Caste Certificate has been subjected to verification shall not be debarred to avail the benefit nor shall discontinue to avail the benefit until the Caste Certificate is cancelled by the Scrutiny Committee.

(3) The Scrutiny Committee shall follow such procedure for verification of the Caste Certificate and adhere to the time limit for verification and grant of validity certificate, as may be prescribed.

Confiscation and cancellation of false Caste Certificate.

7. *(1)* Where, before or after the commencement of this Act, it comes to notice that a person not belonging to any of the reserved category has obtained a false Caste Certificate to the effect that either himself or his children belong to such reserved category, the Scrutiny Committee may, suo-motu or otherwise, call for the record and enquire into the correctness of such Certificate and if it is of the opinion that the Certificate was obtained fraudulently, it shall, by an order, cancel and confiscate the Certificate by following such procedure as may be prescribed after giving the person concerned an opportunity to being heard and communicate the same to the concerned person and the concerned authority, if any.

(2) The order passed by the Scrutiny Committee under this Act shall be final and shall not be challenged before any authority or court except the Hight Court under article 226 of the Constitution of India.

Burden of proof.

8. Where an application is made to the Competent Authority under section 4 for the issue of a Caste Certificate in respect of any reserved category, and in any enquiry conducted by the Competent Authority or Scrutiny Committee or the Appellate Authority under this Act or in any trial of offence under this Act, the question arises about the genuineness of the claim of the applicant, the burden of proving that the person belonged to such Caste, or Class shall be on such claimant applicant.

Powers of Competent Authority, Appellate Authority, and Scrutiny Committee.

9. The Competent Authority, the Appellate Authority, and the Scrutiny Committee shall, while holding an enquiry under this Act, have all the powers of a Civil Court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely :-

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any Court or office; and

(e) issuing Commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents.

Withdrawal of benefits secured on the basis of false Caste Certificate.

10. *(1)* Whoever, not being a person belonging to any of the reserved category, secures admission in any educational institution against a seat reserved for such reserved category or secures any appointment in the Government, Local Authority or in any public sector undertaking or in any Government aided institution or Co-operative Society against a post reserved for such reserved category by producing a false Caste Certificate shall, on cancellation of the Caste Certificate by the Scrutiny Committee, be liable to be debarred from the concerned educational institution, or as the case may be, discharged from the said employment, forthwith and any other benefits enjoyed or derived by virtue of such admission or appointment by such person as aforesaid shall be withdrawn forthwith.

(2) Any amount paid to such person by the Government or by any other authority referred to in sub-section (1) by way of scholarship, grant, allowance or in terms of any other financial benefit shall be returned by such person immediately, failing which it shall be recovered from such person as an arrear of land revenue.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, a person shall be disqualified for being a member of a Local Authority, a Co-operative Society or any other statutory body if he has contested for, or has been elected to, the seat reserved for any of the reserved category by producing a Caste Certificate which is found to be false and is cancelled by the Scrutiny Committee and the benefits, if any, obtained by such person, shall be recoverable as arrear of land revenue and the election of such person shall be terminated retrospectively.

11. *(1)* Whoever, -

Offences and penalties.

(a) obtains a false Caste Certificate by furnishing false information or by filing false statement or documents or by any other fraudulent means; or

(b) not belonging to any of the reserved category secures any benefit or appointment exclusively available for such reserved category in the Government, Local Authority or any public sector undertaking or in any Government aided institution, or secures admission in any educational institution against a seat exclusively reserved for such reserved category or is elected to any of the elective offices of any Local Authority or Cooperative Society against the office, reserved for such category, by producing a false Caste Certificate,

shall on conviction, be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but may extend to two years or with fine

which shall not be less than two thousand rupees, but may extend to twenty thousand rupees or both,

(2) No Court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this section except upon a complaint, in writing, made by the Scrutiny Committee or by any other Officer duly authorised by the Scrutiny Committee for this purpose.

Offences to be cognizable and non-bailable.

12. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 –

(a) offences punishable under section 11 shall be cognizable and non-bailable;

(b) every offence punishable under this Act, shall be tried by any Magistrate of First Class in a summary way and provisions of sections 262 except sub-section (2) to 265, both inclusive, of the said Code, shall, as far as possible, may be applied to such trial.

Penalty for issuing false Caste Certificate.

13. *(1)* Any person or authority performing the functions of Competent Authority under this Act, who intentionally issues a false Caste Certificate, shall, on conviction, be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but may extend to two years or with fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees, but may extend to twenty thousand rupees or both.

(2) No Court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this section except with the previous sanction of the Government.

Penalty for abatement.

14. Whoever abets any offence punishable under this Act shall be punished with the punishment provided for the offence.

Bar of jurisdiction of Civil Courts.

15. No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to entertain, to continue or to decide any suit or proceeding or shall pass any decree or order or execute wholly or partially any decree or order, if the claims involved in such suit or proceeding, or if the passing of such decree or order or if such execution would, in any way, be contrary to the provisions of this Act.

Protection for acts done in good faith.

16. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or the rules made thereunder.

Provisions of this Act are in addition to any other laws.

17. Save as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Act shall be in addition to the provisions of any other law for the time being in force.

Power to make rules.

18. The Government may, subject to the previous publication, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules to carry out all or any of the purposes of this Act.

Power to remove difficulties.

19. *(1)* If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary, for removing the difficulty.

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of a period of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before the State Legislature.

NUNGSHITOMBI ATHOKPAM,
Commissioner (Law),
Government of Manipur.

Printed at and Published by the Directorate of Printing & Stationery, Government of Manipur.

Digitally signed by
Thingbaijam Binodkumar Singh
Date: 22-08-2025 14:02:54